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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/717,936 | 11/21/2003 | Yang Hwan No | K-0557 | 7539 |
| 34610 | 7590 | 05/16/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| FLESHNER & KIM, LLP P.O. BOX 221200 CHANTILLY, VA 20153 | | | PATEL, RITA RAMESH | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1746 | |

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/717,936

Applicant(s)

NO ET AL.

Examiner

Rita R. Patel

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Acknowledgement has been made of applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 3 is dependent on claim 3; for the purposes of examination the Office will presume claim 3 is dependent on claim 2. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Worst (US Patent No. 3,896,641).

Worst teaches a combination line filter and additive-dispenser for an automatic washing machine which includes a receptacle having a plurality of chambers for

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receiving additives or treating agents (Abstract). In Figure 1, there is shown a vertical agitator type automatic clothes washing machine 10 having a container for receiving items to be washed, including an outer tub 12, an imperforate structure and a basket 14 for receiving soiled clothes and cabinet 16 which includes a cover 18 hingedly mounted upon a removable top portion 20 of the cabinet such that when cover 18 is lifted, it provides access through an opening 22 to basket 14. Mounted on the cabinet top 20 is a control panel 24 including sequence control means such as a cycle controlling timer device 28 which serves to conduct the washing machine 10 through various washing cycles which may be selected by the operator (col.2, lines 4-9, 15-18 and 21-25).

Referring to Figure 2, filter-dispenser 70 is shown as being suitably attached to outer tub 12 near the top thereof such that the discharge therefrom passes into basket 14. A receptacle 72 is provided including a plurality of chambers such as first, second and third chambers, denoted as 74, 76 and 78, respectively for receiving an additive or treating agent such as a detergent. The several chambers are substantially rectangular in shape, and formed of three side walls and a base member, one side wall being left substantially open such that the additive may be more easily flushed therefrom into the container or basket 14. Each of the chambers 74, 76 and 78 have been provided respectively with liquid inlets denoted respectively as 80, 82 and 84. Coupling the liquid inlets and thereby the three chambers into the liquid recirculation system are a set of three conduits 86, 88 and 90 respectively which are connected to fluidic switch 48; the fluidic switch being operable by the sequence control timer 28 (col. 3, lines 15-37, 54-

55). As seen in Figure 2, conduits 86, 88 and 90 are shown to be attached to said chambers 74, 76 and 78 at an angled position.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 3, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Worst as applied to claims above.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Worst as described above, to provide a rearrangement of parts such that the water supply valve assembly is over the top plate because that would provide a downward flow of water therein to the detergent holding chamber. Moreover, rearranging parts would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for providing attachment of the water supply valve in a control panel to achieve easy access to said assembly in case of repairs, as well as readily provide accessibility to said component for increased usability. Rearrangement of parts was held to have been obvious. *In re Japikse* 86 USPQ 10 (CCPA 1950).

Claims 4-11 and 15-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Worst as applied to claims above, and further in view of Hobbs et al. herein referred to as "Hobbs" (US Patent No. 6,125,881).

Worst teaches the claimed invention except fails to teach a separably distinct holder and valve assembly for said chamber and coupling liquid inlets. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Hobbs to Worst to achieve improved outlet housing for washing apparatuses which are provided for installation in a wall to connect water supply lines and drain lines to the corresponding lines from an appliance, with dual drain connectors adapted to combine the flows from dual drain outlets into a single drain pipe and knock-outs with downwardly extending, elongated tabs (Abstract). Hobbs teaches an outlet box 10 comprising top wall 12, bottom wall 14, left side wall 16, right side wall 18 and back wall 20. Outlet box 10 is preferably molded, such that ears 22 may be molded directly onto side walls 16, 18 if desired for use in attaching outlet box 10 to wall studs as shown in Figure 7. Alternatively, straps such as molded plastic straps 26 having transversely extending tabs 27, 29 can also be provided for insertion into pockets 24 molded onto side walls 16, 18 of outlet box 10 (col. 4, lines 48-59). In Figures 15 and 16 of Hobbs, outlet box 174 comprises dual drain outlet ports 180 disposed in its bottom wall and two angle stop valves 178 connected to supply pipes 176 through back wall 182 such that outlet box 174 is to be fully recessed and flush mounted inside the wall (col. 7, lines 26-36). The dual drain or multiple drain outlet boxes of the invention can be fabricated so as to permit installation with water supply

lines entering the outlet boxes from the top, bottom, side or back walls as desired (col. 7, lines 58-61). Also as seen in figure 15 of Hobbs, the top plate includes a recessed wall which can perform a slip fit engagement with the attachment area thereunto, thus reading on applicant's limitation for slip fit engagement.

As priorly taught by Worst and the obviousness of rearrangement of parts thereunto, upon attachment of the water supply valve assembly in a control panel, the valve assembly would then be arranged at an angular slant wherein one side connected to the hose would be lower than the other side. The attachment of said parts on the slanted wall of the controller top to the washing machine of Worst would thereby teach a slanted connection of said parts. This design feature would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention because it encourages the flow of water downwards (following gravity) into the detergent dispensing area.

In Figure 6 of Hobbs, another installation of outlet box 10 is depicted wherein ears 22 are used to nail, screw or otherwise fasten outlet box 10 to more closely spaced studs 118, 120 (col. 6, lines 32-36). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide said equivalence of attaching means as taught by Hobbs, to achieve desired fastening for an outlet box, motivated by means of efficiency, functionality, cost and aesthetics. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use substitution of known equivalent structures. *In re Fout* 213 USPQ 532 (CCPA 1982); *In re Susi* 169 USPQ 423 (CCPA 1971); *In re Siebentritt* 152 USPQ 618 (CCPA 1967); *In re Ruff* 118 USPQ 343 (CCPA 1958).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rita R. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-8701. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RRP


MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER